

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #38 - POSTED 01/11/92

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE,  
please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA  
91102.

Thank You  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU DJ0QN and  
many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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THIS WEEKS HEADLINES

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1) A false S-O-S endangers rescue team lives.

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2) ARRL has its own man on the 1992 Warc team.

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[751]

BOGUS SOS

The Federal Communications Commission is seeking public assistance in its investigation of a fake radio distress call that resulted in the needless deployment of a Coast Guard helicopter and a rescue ship to the North Carolina coast during severe weather conditions.

At about 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on November 10th, an amateur radio operator intercepted a distress call from a station using the callsign KD4NTT. The station claimed to be aboard a boat that had run aground on a reef twenty miles east of Duck, N.C. The report said that the vessel was taking on water and that it was an emergency situation.

The amateur who heard the call notified the Coast Guard which initiated search and rescue efforts. No such vessel was found, and the Coast Guard notified the FCC that it had been duped by the hoax call. FCC engineers believe that the phony distress message was transmitted from somewhere in northern Virginia, and has asked anyone with information to come forward and notify the Commission's Field Operations Bureau.

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RINALDO TO WARC

A ham will be part of the United States delegation to the 1992 World Administrative Conference. ARRL Technical Development Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, has been chosen to serve as part of the United States Warc team. Rinaldo's nomination was made on December 12th by U.S. WARC Delegation Chairman Ambassador Jan W. Baran. ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, will also be attending the Warc '92 conference, but only as part of the International Amateur Radio Union's observer team.

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CELLULAR LISTENER CONVICTED

Robert W. Dunnington has been sentenced for recording cellular telephone conversations. Dave Wilson AC4IU reports via packet that Dunnington was the radio hobbyist who monitored and recorded cellular telephone calls of the governor of Virginia, Douglas Wilder, discussing Senator candidate Charles Robb. Dunnington allegedly gave that tape to Robb supporters.

Dunnington eventually pleaded guilty to a single count of intercepting and disclosing electronic communication for this action in 1988. It was reported that he was charged under the old federal wiretap laws and not the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. The latter explicitly makes cellular listening illegal.

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KV4FZ

If you have heard a story that a federal indictment is about to be handed up against Herb Schoenbohm KV4FZ, or that one already has been, we caution you that this is just an unfounded rumor and nothing more.

The story, or rumor, appears to have started by a St. Crois newspaper. The Avis. In what reads as a convoluted story in the December 24th edition, Avis political writer Charles Fisher claims that such a court action has happened, or that it is at least about to take place. He does not seem to know or certain, but his story does wind on and on. Actually, it spends a lot of space quoting accusations against Schoenbohm that originally appeared in a 1990 issue of Fred Maia's W5YI Report.

The point of all of this? Whether or not you like KV4FZ, he is entitled to be presumed innocent until charged and

proven otherwise. Right now, even the newspaper claiming that legal action against Schoenbohm is taking place, is not quite certain its even happening. And Schoenbohm denied all the accusations during an interview on last weeks Lets Talk Radio satellite program.

We can only say that the St. Croix Avis story has yet to be proven or disproved. We are working on it, and will let you know what we learn in future Newsline reports.

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AM

Double sideband full carrier amplitude modulation will stay with the amateur service even if some hams think it has no place with us anymore. So says the FCC in its decision to deny and dismiss a rules change request from Scott Schoenbleben, N4AUD of Liberty, Kentucky. Schoenbleben had argued that just as it was necessary to eliminate spark gap transmitters in order to better utilize the spectrum, so is it now necessary to limit emissions in the bands below 28 MHz to narrow band modes. N4AUD also noted that virtually all amateur equipment manufactured in the past twenty five years was designed primarily for single sideband voice, and that his proposal did leave 28 to 30 MHz available for A-M phone operation.

But the Commission took a different view. In denying Schoenbleben's petition, the FCC said that it had considered a similar request from another amateur back in 1981. At that time they found that deleting any emission type conflicted with the basis and purpose of the amateur service rules. The FCC said that it reiterated this position in 1990 when it denied another petition to delete AM and that N4AUD's petition was just as inconsistent as those in the past. Accordingly, it was being denied.

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#### LOCAL HOUSTON HAM HELPS SAVE GIRL'S LIFE

A Houston Texas Amateur Radio operator has been given full credit for helping save the life of a young girl in Central America. According to Jim Heil, KB5AWM, the ham, Candido Hernandez, K5IYW, maintains a regular schedule with an American missionary in Guatemala. When the missionary told him that a 9 year old girl had been bitten by a rabid animal, Hernandez quickly got in touch with local medical authorities and arranged to have life-saving vaccine shipped to Central America the next day. Marvin Zindler, who aired the story on Houston TV Channel 13, reported that the girl is doing fine and that Hernandez and his missionary friend still talk weekly.

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#### ARRL GRANTED ROBOTIC EXTENSION

The ongoing ARRL Special Temporary Authority for unattended High Frequency digital operation by a limited number of selected amateur stations has been granted an extension running through January 3rd, 1993. On December 20th, the FCC's Private Radio Bureau granted what it termed as being a final extension of the STA.

A survey in the January 1992 issue of QST magazine, and in other publications seeks information for use in developing a proposal for permanent rules regarding such operation. Also remember that unattended operation in the H-F bands is not permitted except under the terms of the Leagues STA.

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#### 220 Suit

The American Radio Relay League may once again be headed into court of the 1 and 1/4 meter band, but this time as a defendant. Word out of Southern California is that the hams whose repeaters will be displaced if the FCC approves an ARRL request to reserve 222.0 to 222.150 MHz. for non-FM will hold the League legally and financially accountable for their loss. According to usually reliable sources, about a dozen of these repeater groups have banded together and have retained legal counsel. The exact nature of any litigation will not be known until after the FCC acts on the ARRL request, and only if it approves the reserved spectrum. The FMers contend that the ARRL never consulted them before going to the FCC. They say that the League had better rescind its request or be ready to pay.

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#### BALLOON

The North Texas Balloon Project successfully launched its first mission on December 14th at 15:18 UTC. The total flight time was about 2 hours and the burst altitude appears to have been just over 100,000 ft. The ascent rate was calculated to be 1,060 ft/min and the velocity just prior to landing impact was about 1,900 ft/min.

Despite the rough ride down, excellent signal reports were obtained. The most distant 2m report was from WB0DRL, in Salina, Kansas. This was a distance of 446 miles. The 10m beacon was heard as far away as Glendora, California by WA6YPE.

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#### DAYTON YOUTH FORUM

Carole Perry, WB2MGP, says that she is looking for a few youngsters with the gift of gab to join her at the 1992 Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum. Young hams with a good working knowledge of Amateur Radio and public speaking ability should contact Carole Perry at P.O. Box 131646, Staten Island New York. 10313.

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#### CLIPPERTON

In DX, Clipperton Island will be activated for 7 days in March and is scheduled to be on the air during the ARRL DX Contest. 160 thru 10 meter operation is scheduled including the Warc bands. Operation will be on SSB, CW and RTTY. The DXpedition team will depart San Diego on or about March 1st aboard a sport fishing boat.

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#### DELTA RADIO

Delta Airlines says that it will provide live in-flight commercial radio broadcasts starting this year. According to Delta, it has signed an agreement with USA Today Sky Radio, a new in-flight broadcast radio supplier, to make the live broadcasts available on their passenger for the first four months after Sky Radio begins operation.

Delta will begin the service by equipping its Boeing 757 aircraft with the radio link. Other aircraft will be added to the system throughout 1992. The customized radio service will include broadcasts of news, sporting events, financial updates and weather forecasts.

Now, if we could just convince Delta to dedicate one or two channels to monitoring 2 meter FM?

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